

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-13

RSR-01 NIC-01 /092 W

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R 100857Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9433

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING

REF: SEOUL 5278

1. ALL NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 10 CARRIED SIMILAR STORIES WHICH COVERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) ROKG HAD REQUESTED GOJ TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE PERSON OF KIM TAE-CHUNG AND TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.
(B) JAPANESE POLICE HAD INDICATED THEY HAD DOUBTS WHETHER CASE WAS ACTUALLY AN ABDUCTION. LATTER WAS ATTRIBUTED TO AFP.

2. IN ADDITION, TONGA ILBO REPORTED THAT YANG IL-DONG AND KIM HYONG-IN TOLD ITS TOKYO CORRESPONDENT THEY WERE DECEIVED BY GENTLEMANLY MANNERS AND CONSERVATIVE ATTIRE OF FIVE YOUNG MEN, SO DID NOT REALIZE THEY WERE KIDNAPPERS UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE. ACCORDING TO TONGA ILBO JAPANESE POLICE HAD ASKED THE TWO KOREAN WITNESSES TO REMAIN IN JAPAN.

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3. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES

ISSUED STATEMENTS AUGUST 10. DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLICAN PARTY AND REVITALIZATION GROUP
ISSUED STATEMENTS WHICH, LIKE ROKG OFFICIAL
REPRESENTATION TO GOJ, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
INVESTIGATION WOULD REVEAL THE FACTS. RG
STATEMENT ADDED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD
DO ALL IT COULD TO PROTECT KIM TAE-CHUNG. NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PARTY
PRESIDENT YU INTENDED TO MAKE NO ASSUMPTION
UNTIL FACTS WERE KNOWN TO AVOID BRINGING
DISGRACE UPON THE ROK INTERNATIONALLY. HE
ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER KIM TAE-CHUNG'S
PERSONAL SAFETY.

4. PYONGYANG DOMESTIC RADIO AUGUST 10

ALLEGED THAT ROK/CIA HAD ABDUCTED KIM
TAE-CHUNG AND DESCRIBED INCIDENT AS A TERRORIST ACT
BY PAK CHONG-HUI GANGSTER CLIQUE. PYONGYANG
BROADCAST CLAIMED THAT KIM WAS IN EXILE AFTER LOSING
1971 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BECAUSE OF RIGGING. IT
COMPARED INCIDENT TO BERLIN BASED SPY RING EPISODE
AND CONCLUDED THAT KIDNAPPING IN TOKYO IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT ATTESTS TO COLLUSION BETWEEN SOUTH KOREAN
CLIQUE AND JAPANESE MILITARIST REGIME. WE NOTE FROM
FBIS B090338 THAT PYONGYANG BROADCAST SIMILARLY
SCATHING COMMENTARY MORNING OF AUGUST 9 LOCAL.

5. COMMENT: ROK MEDIA HANDLING OF KIM TAE-CHUNG

CASE CLEARLY BEING CONTROLLED AND DIRECTED BY
ROKG AGENCIES. IN CONVERSATION WITH MBOFFS,
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE FOLLOWING APPROACH
SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY KIDNAPPING MAY HAVE BEEN
CONTRIVED BY KIM HIMSELF. OTHER
POSSIBILITIES THEY SUGGEST ARE KOREAN OR JAPANESE
RIGHT WING ELEMENTS IN JAPAN OR NORTH KOREAN/CHOSEN SOREN AGENTS.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND,MANY OF OUR UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS TEND

TOWARD PRESUMPTION THAT KIDNAPPING PROBABLY INVOLVED
ROK INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.
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HABIB

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